

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully traverse and request reconsideration.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the notice that claims 6-8, 12, 13, 18-21, 24 and 25 are allowed.

Applicants respectfully submit that it appears that claim 26 was overlooked by the Examiner in issuing the latest office action. It has been neither rejected nor allowed. However, since it includes limitations from allowable claim 6, Applicants will presume that the claim has been allowed. If the claim is not allowed, Applicants respectfully submit that a non-final office action must be issued since the claim was not addressed in the current office action.

Claims 1-4, 9-11, 14-16, 22-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Terasawa et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,433,321 (Grilli et al.). This is another new ground of rejection. The cited portion of the Terasawa reference is not directed to a communication circuit that updates an active link set list as alleged. The cited portions in fact do not mention any updating of an active link set list, only receiving an active set update message by a mobile. Since the cited portion of the Terasawa reference does not teach what the office action alleges, the rejection must be withdrawn and the claim passed to allowance.

Although the claims are allowable for the reason given above, Applicants also respectfully submit that the Grilli reference also does not teach what is alleged. The office action admits that the Terasawa reference fails to teach creating a candidate list of a plurality of reference links to be used as time reference links based on the active link set list and received active link set update message. The office action alleges that Grilli teaches this subject matter. However, the Grilli reference fails to teach this subject matter. The Grilli reference is directed to a different operation and structure from that claimed. Grilli does not create a candidate list of a plurality of reference links as alleged. In fact, the office action admits that there is only one reference link used against which other

neighbor base stations are compared. The cited operation in Grilli is standard use of a single reference base station. This is not what is claimed by Applicants. Instead, Applicants claim a candidate reference link determination circuitry that, inter alia, generates a coordinate list of a plurality of possible reference links.

The office action alleges that Grilli teaches the claimed subject matter by teaching the use of a “system information update request message (create a candidate list of reference links, and selects new reference link)” (page 3 of office action). However, this update request message is actually a message that includes the time difference information to each base station as admitted in the office action. This is not what Applicants claim. Applicants claim creating a candidate list of a plurality of reference links. One of these plurality of reference links is selected and used as time reference links based on an active link set list and a received active link set update message. For example, as stated in Applicants’ Specification:

[0018] Among other advantages, the present invention improves the selection of a reference link. As previously described, if the candidate reference link determination circuitry selects a link as a reference link and the active link set update message requires that the link selected as a reference link is removed, then the candidate reference link determination circuitry must reselect another reference link. Consequently, the selection of a new reference link may result in the selection of two or more reference links in response to receiving the active link set update message. In other words, the candidate reference link determination circuitry selects more than one reference link during an active set update. Since the communication circuit preprocesses the active link set update message before updating the active link set list, the candidate reference link determination circuitry may avoid the selection of a link as a reference link that would subsequently be removed as a reference link prior to the next active link set update message.

[0019] Preprocessing the active link set update message allows the candidate reference link determination circuitry to select a new reference link no more than once during an active set update, regardless of the number of link additions and link removals indicated in the active link set update message. Additionally, since each change of the reference link takes time to process, the processing requirements and the processing time for reselecting a new reference link and for updating the active link set list is reduced. Furthermore, since the reference link reselection process may require several measurements, the

probability of erroneously selecting a new reference link is reduced, since there is a probability of error associated with each measurement. Therefore, decreasing the number of measurements required further decreases the probability of erroneously selecting a new reference link.

The cited portion of Grilli is directed to a completely different operation and in fact simply teaches the time difference information is sent to each base station based on a single reference base station. No plurality of potential list of candidate reference links are created in the cited portions of Grilli.

The dependent claims add additional novel and non-obvious subject matter.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. The Examiner is invited to contact the below-listed attorney if the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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